Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 3 / 3.1 Topic: BlackBerry passwords

Senator: Polley

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Question:

CHAIR: My understanding is that you do have to unlock the BlackBerry before you can make a phone call. I think you will find that, when operating a BlackBerry, once it is locked you can make an emergency phone call but cannot make a phone call even with a handheld device.

Mr Tune: That is not the case with my BlackBerry, so I am not quite sure why that would be the case. I just press call.

CHAIR: No, we cannot.

Senator STEPHENS: Once this is in the hands-free cradle kit, you cannot—

Mr Tune: I do not have the hands-free, so maybe it is a different—

Ms Mason: Perhaps we can look into that further, Chair.

Mr Tune: Yes, we will have a look.

CHAIR: If you could look into that and advise the committee, it would be most helpful.

Answer:

Once the device is locked, the ability to make a call is limited to the user knowing the number they are calling. The contact list and previous calls are not accessible if the device is locked. This is to ensure that if the device is stolen or lost, the information held in the device is secure.